

# the Roadrunner

Nebraska ♦ Department ♦ of ♦ Roads

February/March 2006

## Bridge Work

*See story on page 4.*



*Photo by Sherry Thom, Ravenna*



*Photo by Ken Marcey, NDOR District 4 Hwy. Construction Tech II*



*Photo by Wesley Wahlgren, NDOR District 4 Engineer*

## the Roadrunner

Published every two months by the

### Nebraska Department of Roads

Communication Division

1500 Highway 2

PO Box 94759

Lincoln NE 68509-4759

(402)479-4512

[www.nebraskatransportation.org](http://www.nebraskatransportation.org)

### Governor Dave Heineman

#### Highway Commission

Duane Acklie

Doug Leafgreen

Dick Reiser

Ronald Books

John Kingsbury

Greg Wolford

Donna Wanitschke

Jerome Fagerland

#### Administration

Roads Director .....John L. Craig

Deputy Director.....Monty Fredrickson

Deputy Director.....John Jacobsen

Legal Counsel.....Jeff Schroeder

#### Divisions

Bridge .....Lyman Freemon

Communication .....Mary Jo Hall

Construction.....Claude Oie

Controller .....Steve Maraman

Government Affairs .....Larry Shafer

Human Resources.....Sue Larson

Information Systems.....Jon Ogden

Materials & Research .....Moe Jamshidi

Operations .....Tom Sands

Planning & Project Development.....Arthur Yonkey

Project Scheduling.....Khalil Jaber

Rail & Public Transportation .....Ellis Tompkins

Right-of-Way.....Randy Needham

Roadway Design.....James Knott

Traffic Engineering.....Randy Peters

#### Districts

District 1.....Richard Ruby

District 2.....Timothy W. Weander

District 3.....Kristine Winter

District 4.....Wesley Wahlgren

District 5.....Craig Lind

District 6.....Gary Thayer

District 7 .....Kurt Vosburg

District 8.....Mark Kovar

Editor.....Linda M. Wilson

Type & Layout .....Diane German

*printed on recycled paper*

The information in this newsletter is contributed by employees, retirees and friends of NDOR.



# Project Delivery: Getting Right Things Done

**By Monty Fredrickson**

Deputy Director – Engineering



**Monty Fredrickson**

Project delivery is probably the single most important mission directed by the Deputy for Engineering. Without projects getting to letting and awarded, lots of bad things can happen. Rather than go into detail of all the consequences, let me summarize by saying: 1) the economy of Nebraska would suffer greatly, and; 2) the project delivery team would be under the microscope.

Now the good news. The project delivery team has performed remarkably over the past 10+ years. Why is that? As the boss says, it's all about people, and I think we have the best people. We have a team attitude and a clear mission. We have smart people who know how to get the right things done. We are tenacious and able to overcome all obstacles thrown our way. We have fun. We respect each other, and many of us even like each other.

## Over 100 Activities

So who is this project delivery team anyway? Everyone in the department plays some role. Whether surveyor, planner, public information person, designer, reviewer, project manager, etc., remember you all contribute to the tremendous economic impact our projects have on society. There are over 100 activities that must take place before a project travels from inception to construction and each activity is critical. A major "thank you" goes out to the team for completing all those activities for 750 projects let to contract over the last five fiscal years.

So what are our short- and long-term goals? We all know the perennial short-term goal. Deliver 100 percent of the one-year program on time and on budget with quality sets of plans. Longer term, we will become more efficient in our processes. We will continue to leverage technology; partner with contractors, consultants, the public, and reviewing agencies; and get better at project management. We will benchmark the best practices of other states, and become better stewards of the environment.

## Huge Projects

More specifically, I think an important medium-term goal is to deliver the projects to complete the Interstate 80 six-lane reconstruction from Lincoln to Omaha by 2012. In that same time frame, we need to deliver plans for the new Missouri River bridges at Yankton, Interstate 80, South Omaha, Bellevue, Plattsmouth and Rulo. Huge projects with huge benefits to Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Missouri. But, let's not forget the "bread and butter" of our work—preservation of the existing highway and bridge network. These resurfacing type projects are not usually the high profile front-page jobs, but they serve our citizens every day. We must keep them up to par. In 2006, several of us in the central complex, in conjunction with the District Engineers, will be reviewing our five-year program to assure that we are spending the appropriate funds on system preservation.

Times are changing, and there are many challenges ahead for the project delivery team. We will embrace change with energy and enthusiasm, and involve people at all levels to get positive results. I am proud to be part of the team and look forward to a most productive 2006! ♦

# Salac New District 6 Construction Engineer

Noel Salac is the new District 6 Construction Engineer for the Nebraska Department of Roads. District 6 includes Arthur, Blaine, Custer, Dawson, Grant, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson and Thomas counties, as well as portions of Cherry, Garden and Deuel counties. Salac, a licensed professional engineer, succeeds Gary Thayer, who was recently named the new District 6 Engineer in North Platte.

For eight years, Salac has worked at the Roads Department in several areas, including serving as an inspector and survey party chief in District 1 for three years. He also worked in the Roadway Design Division at Central Headquarters in Lincoln for five years—two years as a designer/engineer and 2½ years as a consultant coordinator/engineer. In September 2005, Salac was promoted to Project Scheduling Manager.



**Noel Salac**

Born in Bryan, Texas, and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, Salac graduated from Pius X High School, and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1997.

Salac said he has appreciated the opportunity to be on

many successful teams at the department. He noted that he gets a lot of satisfaction from his personal interactions with others, as they work together to deliver large, complex projects to their customers, the citizens of the State of Nebraska.

In discussing future goals, Salac said he is fortunate to be inheriting a good team from Thayer and recently retired District 6 Engineer Les O'Donnell, adding, "My challenge will be to lead an already excellent district team and provide them with clear vision and direction so that we can reach the

next level of achievement.

He continued, "To get to the next level, the key items I intend to focus on are safety, both on the construction site and with the traveling public; improving coordination inside and outside the department to most efficiently deliver construction projects; and effective utilization of people, resources and tools available to perform our mission in the district.

Seeing his role as a guide and mentor, Salac said he will define clear and measurable goals and give his staff the freedom to use their strengths to achieve these goals as they see fit. Salac added, "I'd like people to know that I am always there to listen and do what I can to help."

Salac, age 39, was recently married to his wife, the former Debra Russell of Scottsdale, Arizona. In his spare time, he enjoys going to church, golfing, bowling league, following Texas Aggie football, reading, and visiting with friends and family. ♦

## Jacobsen Selected "Omaha Hometown Hero"

John "Jake" Jacobsen, NDOR's Deputy Director of Operations, was honored as a "Hometown Hero" by Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey and the Greater Omaha Convention & Visitors Bureau at a luncheon on December 19 at Qwest Center Omaha. He was one of 37 Omaha residents who were honored for bringing convention business to the city and for the economic impact and contributions they have made to Omaha.

Jacobsen was recognized for bringing the 84th annual meeting of the Western Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (WASHTO) meeting to the Qwest Center July 10-13, 2005. This was the first time the conference was held in Nebraska, and more than 600 state delegates and industry partners attended.

Hometown Heroes represent many organizations such as sporting groups, business and educational associations, religious organizations and more. The purpose of the Hometown Hero initiative is to team up Omaha residents with the Greater Omaha Convention & Visitors Bureau to work together to bring conventions, conferences, exhibitions and tournaments to the city.



**John "Jake" Jacobsen, NDOR's Deputy Director of Operations, received "Hometown" Hero honors from Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey during luncheon at Qwest Center Omaha**



# Ravenna's Tied-Arch Bridge Unique to U.S.

The new Nebraska Highway 68 Bridge in Ravenna, over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway tracks, is a welcome addition to the town, according to Kirk Weber, NDOR Project Manager.

The bridge was opened to traffic November 22, and replaces an older viaduct built in 1936-37.

The steel tied-arch bridge is a one-of-a-kind for this country. The bridge is 174 feet long, has a clear roadway width of 43 feet, includes a 7-foot pedestrian walkway and has an overall width of 58 feet 7½ inches. Each arch structure consists of two 12-inch diameter steel upper tubes, a lower 24-inch by 24-inch steel tie beam, and hanger rods. The steel in each tied arch weighs over 36 tons.

What makes the bridge unique is that the upper tubes and lower tie beams of each arch are filled with 8000 psi (pounds per square inch) self-consolidating concrete; the lower tie beams each have two post-tensioned steel strand tendons (19 steel strands per tendon); and the concrete bridge deck has 64 post-tensioned steel strands. The unique design is the combined effort of the NDOR Bridge Division and the UNL College of Engineering. Dr. Maher Tadros at UNL



The Nebraska Highway 68 Bridge in Ravenna, over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway tracks, is a steel tied-arch bridge, the first of its kind in the United States.

created the concept for the design. The actual design effort was a collaboration between David Fritz, lead designer for NDOR, and Dr. Amgad Girgis, of UNL. Dan Sharp, Assistant Bridge Engineer, supervised the NDOR design team for the project. Lyman Freemon, NDOR Bridge Engineer, was instrumental in working with Dr. Tadros to initiate the post-tensioned, tied-arch bridge design.

Storm sewer work for this project began in December 2004. Construction of four drilled shaft foundations for the bridge structure began in February 2005. The drilled shafts each support

an abutment column and were chosen as an alternative to concrete piling in an effort to reduce potential noise problems.

Normally an existing structure is completely removed, and construction of the new structure begins. However, construction of the new Ravenna viaduct utilized the existing structure as a staging area to erect and set the two tied-arches on the abutment columns. The existing deck areas were also

used as a platform for removal of the existing deck and to place the steel floor beams between the arch segments.

"The assembling and setting of the tied arches proved to be one of the major challenges of this project," Weber noted.

Work on the bridge is nearly complete, including the bridge itself, utility relocations, storm sewers, MSE (mechanically stabilized earth) walls, concrete pavement and lighting. The bridge will be painted this spring. The arch tubes and tie beams will be blue, the hanger rods will be silver, and the MSE walls and concrete barriers will receive a stain finish.

Christensen Brothers, Inc. of Cherokee, Iowa, was the prime contractor for the \$4,212,930 project. Scott Christensen, president of Christensen Brothers, was the project manager for the prime contractor, and Wade Christiansen was the foreman. The Department of Roads' manager for this project was Kirk Weber, and the NDOR inspectors were Ken Marcey, Steve Johnson, and Anh Do, from District 4. ♦

**Cover photos (clockwise) - Night view of the tied-arch bridge at Ravenna, looking east.**

**East side of the arch being placed on the base plates that are anchored to one of the columns.**

**Reinforcing steel cage with cross sonic testing tubes for one of the four drilled shafts.**



The Ravenna viaduct, built in 1936-37, was outdated and in need of replacement.

# Recommended Reading

More good books as recommended by Director John Craig



***"Engineering Economy,"*** 5th edition (2002), by Leland Blank and Anthony Tarquin. I "waded" my way through this edition of the text which I understand the University of Nebraska currently uses. It is mind-numbing to read and that is why I didn't. That aside, I did review some of the analytic methods and contrasted them with my "Engineering Economy: Analysis of Capital Expenditures" text, 3d edition (1979), by Gerald W. Smith. Fundamentally, little has changed in this area during the intervening 20-plus years. The newer text had more examples and perhaps two to three times the problems (that accounts for most of the greater length of the text). There was also an expanded discussion on sensitivity analysis and an appendix on basic business financial statements which I thought added to the subject. The other noticeable difference is that the new text covers computer-aided expenditures and analysis using spreadsheets and Microsoft Excel, while my older text uses FORTRAN (it didn't say whether it was FORTRAN II or IV but I thought I remembered it as IV).

What this review did for me was to remind not only how much I have long forgotten, but the essential aspect of economic analysis to engineering and business. There are a great many subjects we should apply some additional economic analysis to, in addition to highway projects. "Academicians" tell me that expanded economic analysis tools will be published as a college textbook in perhaps the next ten years. This expanded area has been called "Transportation Asset Management," but those tools are evolving and not standardized for use.

So, my conclusion from all this is that the engineering economics tools that have been around for a great many years (some in excess of 100 years) will serve us well for a number of years in the future. I use my old text only for reference.

***"The Art of Structural Design: A Swiss Legacy,"*** by David Billington, 2003. This book should be read by every bridge (structural) engineer. The author did not become aware of the structural engineering the Swiss were doing for much of his professional life, including as a professor of structural design. Since then, his course on this subject at Princeton has received the highest student rating for large courses (over 50 students) and this book is the culmination of nearly 35 years of study.

In essence, Billington tracks the life stories of six men—two teachers and four students. Robert Maillert developed his concrete bridge designs as reinforced concrete developed in the last half of the 19th century. Many of his bridges are not well known because, at the

time, they were so radical that they were built in very remote locations in Switzerland, although he worked in other European countries as well. The Salginatobel Bridge in Switzerland has essentially become his signature bridge.

Othmar Ammann is Maillert's counterpart for steel bridges; his most famous bridge may be the 5,475-foot-long Verrazano Narrows Bridge in New York. Ammann spent virtually his entire professional career in the United States—unlike Maillart. Both Maillert and Ammann were students of Wilhelm Ritter.

More recently, Pierre Lardy produced two students that excelled in structural design: Heinz Isler, who developed thin-shell concrete, and Christian Menn, who has built largely in prestressed concrete bridges. I have also heard the author refer to Menn as the greatest living bridge designer today. Menn, who is still living, believes his most satisfying bridge was the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge in Boston, although he has worked equally in the United States and Europe.

Billington has brought to life these men and structures they designed and built. Menn may have best summarized the philosophy of all these structural designers by asserting his design goals as safety, serviceability, economy and aesthetics, with the latter being the core. Clearly these designers have set a high standard for present-day designers in bringing their visions to fruition.

Among the many themes, one is the central role played by the Federal Institute of Technology of Zurich (formerly the Federal Polytechnical Institute or Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule), which was developed with the Industrial Revolution and which produced all of these students. Early in the chapter on Wilhelm Ritter is a discussion of Carl Culmann, one of the early professors hired in the new Institute. Culmann is credited with the creation of "Graphic Statics" or the demonstration of structural behavior through geometric diagrams rather than through algebraic formulas. Culmann published this "language of drawing" in "Die Graphische Statik" in 1866. The teachers and students discussed in this book were all students of the "Culmann Way." There are also a great many technical aspects pioneered by these men, including the first concrete hollow-box structure ever built and a new understanding of the theory of the shear center. A great read.

# New Web-Based Training Offered

By **Carrie Williams**  
Training Coordinator

In a further effort to provide training that not only suits your needs, but is also available when you want it, we would like to announce that a new form of training is now available via the Internet. This method of training offers many advantages that we have not otherwise been able to address. Through the use of the Internet, we are able to provide you with training that you would need or like, to suit your schedule, without the expense of travel.

Many of you have already experienced some web-based training, such as the on-line computer training for Defensive Driving, or even web-based training from this specific training site. We now want to make sure that all Nebraska Department of Roads employees are aware of this expanded opportunity.

In conjunction with other state agencies, we are able to provide our employees a listing of over 200 courses from which to choose. These courses include topics such as *Dealing With Conflict*, *Managing Others*, *Being a Supervisor*, *Effective Communication*, *Getting Results*, and many more. In addition, there are courses available covering computer program topics such as *Microsoft Word*, *Excel*, *Access*, *Lotus Notes*, and even *Web Design*. This extensive list of courses was put together to suit the many different needs of state employees. All of these courses are offered with no expense to either the employees or the divisions.

## Continuous Record

In addition, this tool has the ability to track any courses you have completed. You have the added benefit of being able to start and stop the courses, and the system will "bookmark" your place so that next

time you are able to begin where you left off, rather than starting fresh. The system maintains a continuous record of those courses you have partially begun and completed. You are also able to develop a plan for yourself for future training.

We are working to provide web-based training specifically geared toward the safety of our employees and may include topics such as Driving Safety, Safe Lifting, Respirator Protection, and Fall Protection. More details will be provided when available.

To view the complete list of course offerings, as well as the instructions to access the site, please go to the NDOR Intranet and view the training opportunities listed on the calendar. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Human Resources Training Staff: Jacki Schrotberger, Denice Sears, or Carrie Williams. ♦

# New Employee Recognition Program Emphasizes Timely Appreciation

By **Cindy DeCoster**  
Employee Recognition Program Manager

Have you been "recognized" in the last seven days? Has anyone let you know that you, and the work you are performing, are important to the agency's success? Then the new Employee Recognition Program that became effective in 2005 may be of interest to you. The revised program has been built around the ideas of more frequent, more meaningful, more specific and more timely appreciation for all employees.

The Initiative that began a year ago is now complete and, as many of you know, the final pieces of the program should be in place by the end of January 2006.

There were five areas of the previous program that were targeted for revision.

**Awards** – Initiative 2005 created new recognition opportunities that are aligned with our current mission, vision and values. These recognition opportunities will draw from each area the people we want to be role models for the agency.

**Administration** – The new program is more accessible to all employees and easier to manage.

**Rewards** – The focus is on shifting the emphasis from giving rewards to providing recognition. Recognition needs to be timely, specific and meaningful to the individual being honored.

**Training** – Historically, training about the importance of recognition was infrequent and training about the recognition program was slightly better. Training opportunities have now been created and will be offered on a regular basis.

**Accountability** - The success of the previous program rested predominantly on a select few individuals. Recognition is everyone's responsibility. A department-wide program was developed, making all NDOR employees responsible for the successful culture shift of recognizing employees, across all levels and areas, as part of "the way we do things here at Roads."

## Several Premises

The current program was founded on several premises:

- A list of criteria has been established for the current recognition opportunities. Nominations will be compared against criteria and recognized as appropriate. Recognition should cross all division/district boundaries as well as all

See **Recognition** on next page



# TE Projects Awarded

The Nebraska Department of Roads recently announced that a total of \$6,098,265 has been awarded for 21 community and agency projects statewide through the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program.

According to Roads Director John Craig, "Many positive things have been accomplished and continue to benefit Nebraska as a result of the Transportation Enhancement Program. Since 1993, the Department of Roads has supported over 700 transportation enhancement projects across the state. These projects are making a significant contribution to the quality of life in Nebraska communities—from the smallest village to the largest city." Transportation Enhancement dollars have been spent in one of every three Nebraska communities.

The Transportation Enhancement Program, part of the federal highway bill, provides funding to local, state, and regional government entities to construct and restore transportation infrastructure that are not eligible to

be funded through other programs. Examples of transportation infrastructure projects that are eligible under this program include non-motorized facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, development of scenic byways, restoration of historic transportation facilities, and other projects directly related to the historic, current or future transportation infrastructure.

The Transportation Enhancement Selection Committee recommended the projects for funding.

Following is a complete list of the successful projects recommended for funding along with their locations:

- Nebraska Forests Service/UNL Statewide Arboretum – continuation of Nebraska Community Enhancement Program.
- Cowboy Trail Surfacing Program – surface 21 miles from Arabia Ranch Rd. to Johnstown.
- Nebraska Lied Main Street Program – improve downtown areas in Lied Main Street communities.
- Orleans Flag Creek Bridge Restoration.
- MoPac Trail Bridge – 27th St., Lincoln.
- Nebraska Historical Highway Marker Repairs – Phase 3.
- Humboldt Brick & Historic Lighting.
- Lexington Trail-Phase 1 – concrete 2.4-mile bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting residential neighborhoods to Tyson packing plant.
- Pleasanton Depot Restoration.
- Bancroft Neihardt Trail – one-half mile bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting City Arboretum to John G. Neihardt Historical Center.
- McCook Kelley Park Trail – one-half mile bicycle/pedestrian trail.
- Dakota City Depot Renovation.
- Wayne Downtown Historic Renovation.
- Rushville Pedestrian/Bicycle Trail – one and one-half mile concrete trail.
- Plainview Downtown Historic Renovation.
- Aurora Downtown Historical Lighting.
- Chappell Trail – one-half mile concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting city of Chappell to Chappell Lake.
- Winnebago Thunder Way Trail – one-mile long concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting Heritage Store area to Thunder Way subdivision.
- North Loup Popcorn Path – 3,100-foot concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail.
- Blair Dana Trail – 4,800-foot concrete bicycle/pedestrian trail connecting Blair Deerfield Lions Trail to Dana College softball and recreational fields.
- Sidney Deadwood Trail – 1.3-mile bicycle/pedestrian trail linking Sidney Deadwood Trail system to I-80 interchange area.

## Recognition *(continued from page 6)*

levels of employees. Everyone has the chance to be appreciated for the work they do.

- Most of the work we do at NDOR is done within the context of a team. Very little of what gets accomplished is completed solely by one individual. The recognition opportunities now reflect the way we currently complete our work. Team recognition has been added.
- The program will need to be reviewed periodically. In order for a recognition program to succeed, it needs to be an evolving document, changing as the needs of the organization and its employees change. Flexibility is a must. As each area of NDOR is unique, so are the people within each area.
- How a nomination is written is less important than what actually

occurred. The nomination forms have been revised and are more user-friendly.

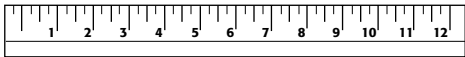
- Leadership is a behavior, not a title. Each and every person at NDOR is capable of leading.
- Recognition should closely follow what we want repeated. As a result, recognition is no longer time-based. Nominations will be processed and the person or team recognized as necessary.

### Many Opportunities

The new agency program has recognition opportunities for Leadership, Collaboration, Projects of Merit, Good Samaritan, as well as many others. The Employee Recognition Program Book and current nomination forms can be found on the NDOR Intranet, under "Human Resources."

No agency Employee Recognition Program can completely accommodate the unique needs and personality of each division and district. With that in mind, each area of NDOR has the opportunity to create a supplemental program that identifies and acknowledges the contributions from the people in that area. With each area having its own program, recognition will occur more often. ♦





# Performance Measure: “Percentage of Construction Projects Finaled Within 60 Days”

This is the seventh in a series of articles featuring performance measures of the Nebraska Department of Roads.

As part of the department’s quality improvement program, a Measurement Organizational Improvement Team was chartered by the 1995 Quality Council. The charter was: “To establish an effective method of measuring progress in attaining the department’s mission, vision and values, which include measuring internal and external customer satisfaction.”

Today, the department has nineteen performance measures categorized into five areas: Safety, Construction Administration, Program Delivery, Systems Management and Quality.

The performance measure identified in the Performance Measures Report as “C5” measures the efficiency to finalize construction projects for payment. This measure is an indicator of the amount of time it takes to make final payment after the contractor has finished their work and has provided the department all the necessary documentation and

certifications. Also, this measure is a factor in the amount of interest paid on outstanding liabilities to contractors.

According to Claude Oie, state Construction Engineer, when this measure initially started in 1995, they were trying to final half of the projects within 180 days. Then, in 2000 the goal was established to have 100 percent of projects finaled within 60 days. Oie said this was changed due a state statute which requires the department to pay interest to contractors on unpaid monies beginning the 61st day after completion, provided all required documents and certifications have been submitted by the contractor.

But, at the time, it was determined that goal was not realistic, and in 2004, the goal was revised to 18 percent. Then after that percentage was achieved, it was decided to double that goal to 36 percent for FY-2006.

Oie noted, “It has been a progression of the goal. While 100 percent is still a goal, we are trying to improve by accomplishing intermediate goals. We

stalled a little bit in 2000 and 2001 with 3 and 4 percent of projects finaled within 60 days; then we went to 8 and 9 percent in 2002 and 2003. After that, we had a big jump in 2004 to 18 percent, and we decided to double this goal.”

Oie continued, “I think it’s important to note that several years ago it was not uncommon for a project not to be finaled in nine months to a year. Right now, about 25 percent of the projects take us six months to final, and 40 percent take from three to six months to final. Another 35 percent get done within 90 days and about 45 percent of those are finaled within 60 days.

“I would say when we first started five years ago, it was not uncommon for 25 to 30 percent of the projects to take more than a year to final. That number was reduced by half to 15 percent in 2002 and the number of projects more than a year old is currently 5 percent.”

According to Bill Hitzeman, Highway Construction Finals Supervisor, the goal will always be to achieve 100 percent of projects finaled within 60 days to try to meet the state statute and be fiscally responsible with taxpayers’ money.

“While the interest the department pays is less than one-tenth of one percent of our total construction program, we are working hard to increase our efficiencies to avoid spending any money unnecessarily for delays.”

Hitzeman said the important thing is that they are increasing the percentage and working toward the goal. He discussed several major areas that have helped toward reaching the goal, including commitment by the districts, refining the final review

process and enhancing the Site Manager construction software.

“The software is continually being enhanced to improve the process of automating computations, thereby eliminating unnecessary duplication and reducing the chance for errors. When we have the software that we have confidence in, it is a significant factor in reaching this goal,” Hitzeman said.

A huge factor in achieving the goal is the people, according to both Oie and Hitzeman.

“We have a group of people that we have to give a lot of credit to for the successes we have, especially the project managers and the final review people in the districts that are ultimately responsible for the success of this goal,” Oie said.

Hitzeman added, “We’re certainly blessed to have the people we do. Right now, we have a group of district final reviewers out there who are pretty hard to beat and I wouldn’t trade the reviewers in our Construction Office Final Review Section for anything. A huge overall knowledge is required, not only of the large number of pay items to be reviewed, but the many ways to measure them, specifications and different time allowances that all have to be taken care of as part of the final process, and they’re different on every job.”

Oie acknowledged achieving this performance measure goal won’t be easy. “We’ve got to continue to look at how we get to the next level, because we’re not satisfied with where we’re at. We do want to get to have a majority of the construction projects completed within 60 days, if not all of them. We will continue refining the process to make sure we’re getting the job done right and that we are paying our contractors in a correct and timely manner. It’s a huge effort, but we are convinced it can be done.”◆

## We Get Letters ...

November 2005

Richard S. Reiser  
Dist. 2 Hwy. Commissioner  
Omaha, NE

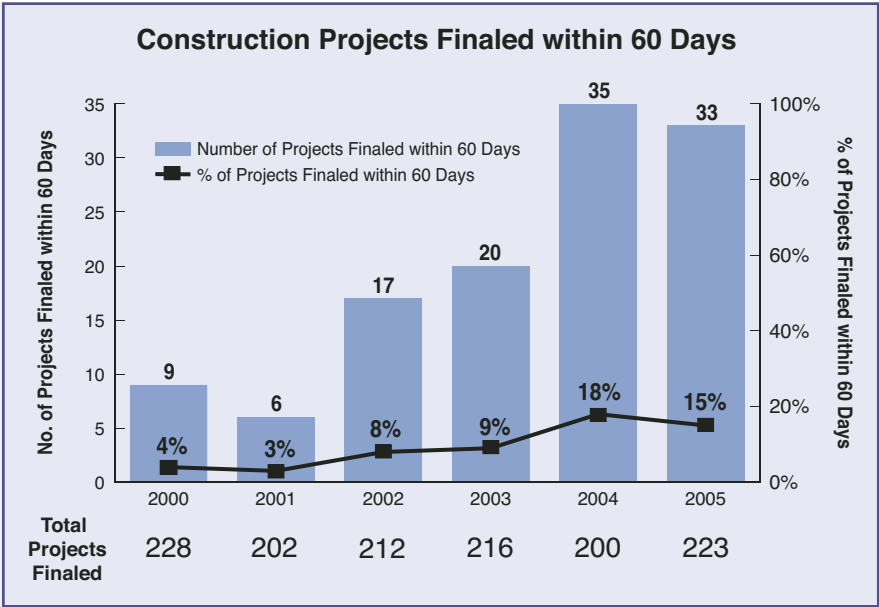
*After reading the article about truck drivers not having enough rest areas to stop at and sleep, I’d like to comment on the rest areas in the state of Nebraska. My husband and I have traveled to and from Idaho a number of times in the last five years, and I would like to commend Nebraska on their rest areas. We have traveled through South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Montana and Idaho and none of these states have the attractive, clean and numerous rest areas along the interstate that Nebraska has. I noticed that most of Nebraska’s rest areas are not more than 42 to 48 miles apart. I’ve also noticed the number of truckers using these rest areas. The Nebraska Roads Department should be proud of this accomplishment.*

Marie Boulden  
Omaha, Nebraska

**The Department of Roads receives numerous complimentary letters. The letters printed here are representative of those often sent praising the many fine and deserving employees of the Department of Roads.**

## 511 Feedback ...

- ❄ “Hi, this is Larry Cullingham. I’m out of Aurora, Nebraska... I think this is a fabulous deal that is put on here with this 511. I hope it will continue because it is just absolutely wonderful that us drivers out here in these semis have the opportunity to get the information we need before we travel down any highway or interstate system that’s here through Nebraska. Thank you. Have a wonderful day.”
- ❄ “I’d just like to say that you guys are doing a wonderful job with this report. I’m driving on Route 80 in Nebraska headed towards Idaho and it’s wonderful to know that you guys are keeping an eye on the road for us. So thanks very much...”
- ❄ “Hi. My name is Dave. I just wanted to tell you thank you for simplifying the weather... It makes it a lot easier to travel home from central Nebraska up to Steamboat where I live right now. Thanks again.”





# Job Directory

NDOR Highway Improvement Projects Currently Under Contract as of 1/10/06

**Location**  
**Work Description**  
**Prime Contractor**  
**Project Manager**  
**Contract Bid Amount**

## Key:

Aggregate - Agg  
Bituminous - Bit  
Bridge - Br  
Building - Bldg  
Concrete Pavement - ConPav  
Culverts - Culv  
Electrical - Elec  
Grading - Gr  
Guardrail - Gdrl  
Mechanically Stabilized Earth - MSE  
Seeding - Seed

## District 1

Pioneers Blvd., Lincoln  
Br  
Christensen Bros., Inc.  
Dearmont, Virgil (402)441-7681  
\$796,845.85

Waverly North  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl  
Elk Horn Construction Co.  
Dearmont, Virgil (402)441-7681  
\$811,844.63

Daykin East  
Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Endorf, Dennis (402)729-3489  
\$1,325,716.05

US-77 So. Interchg. to I-180, Lincoln  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,  
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
England, Jim (402)471-0850  
\$28,886,121.30

Sterling East  
Gr, Bit  
Pavers Companies  
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131  
\$119,646.52

Pawnee City Southeast  
Bit  
Constructors, Inc.  
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131  
\$1,092,332.23

Table Rock West  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Elec, Bit  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131  
\$2,641,879.16

Odell East & West  
Gr, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Constructors, Inc.  
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131  
\$2,480,272.98

Liberty Spur East  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Constructors, Inc.  
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131  
\$1,278,236.26

Tecumseh South  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Habegger, Michael (402)335-4131  
\$3,596,981.22

In Syracuse  
Bit  
Pavers Companies  
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131  
\$299,497.01

Lorton East  
Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Constructors, Inc.  
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131  
\$1,635,544.66

Tecumseh West  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131  
\$1,676,877.11

Brock - Lorton  
Bit  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Hitzeman, Don (402)335-4131  
\$562,371.66

Lincoln West  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Elec  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Hobelman, Ryan (402)471-0850  
\$12,430,182.09

Platte River Bridges  
Gr, MSE Wall, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Sign, Elec  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Knutson, Dewaine (402)471-0850  
\$45,189,781.90

Dynamic Message Signs -  
Dists 1, 2 & 3  
Culv, Gdrl, Sign  
Watts Electric Company  
Knutson, Dewaine (402)471-0850  
\$868,187.55

W. Jct. N-79 West  
Bit  
Constructors, Inc.  
Kuehn, Joseph (402)471-0850  
\$1,016,231.15

Little Salt Creek Bridge (WB)  
Br  
JMN Construction Llc  
Kuehn, Joseph (402)471-0850  
\$642,572.09

Wilber Northwest  
Gr, Br, Gdrl  
Elk Horn Construction Co.  
Lane, Chris (402)483-5466  
\$413,157.97

Oak Creek Bridges  
Gr, ConPav, Br  
Capital Contractors, Inc.  
Lange, Dan (402)471-0850  
\$2,718,850.13

I-80 Over Cornhusker Hwy. &  
BNSF Railroad  
Gr, ConPav, Br  
Capital Contractors, Inc.  
Lange, Dan (402)471-0850  
\$3,871,249.32

Julian North & South  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Elec  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Mueller, Gerald (402)335-4131  
\$12,645,541.65

Bridge Over I-80 @ Arbor Rd.  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Fence  
A. M. Cohron & Son, Inc.  
Niazi, Babrak (402)471-0850  
\$2,755,958.99

Eagle East  
Specialty  
Monarch Oil, Inc.  
Niazi, Babrak (402)471-0850  
\$187,103.92

Seward West  
Bit  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850  
\$1,826,740.58

Seward Interchange  
Elec  
Watts Electric Company  
Preble, Rodger (402)471-0850  
\$31,300.00

Ceresco - Wahoo & In Wahoo  
Bit  
Pavers Companies  
Sanburn, Bob (402)471-0850  
\$1,159,175.28

Ashland South & East  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Sidiqi, Abdul (402)471-0850  
\$4,732,948.07

K & L Interchange  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Traudt, Bob (402)471-0850  
\$10,119,343.74

Lincoln South (Nb)  
Gdrl, Bit  
Constructors, Inc.  
Vandegrift, Allen (402)729-3489  
\$1,667,731.88

I-80 Milford Exit North to US-34  
Bit  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Vandegrift, Allen (402)729-3489  
\$1,341,297.44

Dorchester South  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Constructors, Inc.  
Vandegrift, Allen (402)729-3489  
\$2,999,076.23

Lincoln Surveyors Building  
Lincoln Surveyors Building  
Rogge General Contractors, Inc.  
Wood, Glenda (402)479-4498  
\$658,029.00

## District 2

I-480 WB/US-75 NB Bridge  
Over Burt St., Omaha  
Gr, MSE Wall, ConPav,  
Culv, Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Baehr, Dennis (402)595-2534  
\$17,399,999.32

Platte River East  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Elec  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Brown, Darin G (402)727-3292  
\$8,790,130.15

Blair - Kennard  
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Luxa Construction Co., Inc.  
Brown, Darin G (402)727-3292  
\$4,244,619.96

In Arlington  
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Christensen Bros., Inc.  
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661  
\$576,984.60

Washington Northeast  
Br  
MCC, LLC  
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661  
\$341,841.83

Hooper Northeast  
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl  
Commercial Construction, Inc.  
Cowles, Scott (402)443-4661  
\$788,603.56

Maple St. - Fort St., Omaha  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.  
Farivari, Mo (402)595-2534  
\$15,416,759.67

Melia Hill WB Rest Area  
Bldg  
Judds Bros. Construction Co.  
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534  
\$937,525.33

N-370 to Ruff Rd.  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534  
\$39,143,149.79

Melia Hill WB Rest Area  
Landscaping  
D. F. Lanoha Lndscp. Nursery, Inc.  
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534  
\$12,985.00

Pflug Rd. Bridge  
Gr, MSE Wall, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Fence  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Fisher, Rick (402)595-2534  
\$3,172,179.51

Hooper East & West  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Elec, Sign  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Jacobs, Micky (402)727-3292  
\$22,401,622.91

174th St. - 198th St, Omaha  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.  
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534  
\$15,703,247.66

Gretna Southwest  
Elec  
Watts Electric Company  
Khalaf, Zahi (402)595-2534  
\$52,506.60

Bennington Northeast  
Gr, Br, Gdrl  
Chas. Vrana & Son Constr. Co.  
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534  
\$301,434.73

Districts Operations Center  
Districts Operations Center  
Prairie Construction Co.  
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534  
\$1,523,000.00

Omaha Vehicle Storage Facility  
Omaha Vehicle Storage Facility  
Judds Bros. Construction Co.  
Kuehner, Chris (402)595-2534  
\$619,450.00

Papillion West  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl  
MCC, LLC  
Peterson, Roger (402)255-3831  
\$2,214,618.79

In Blair  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Fence, Elec  
Luxa Construction Co., Inc.  
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292  
\$6,183,447.41

Blair Vehicle Shop & Office Facility  
Blair Vehicle Shop & Office Facility  
Graham Penn-Co Construction, Inc.  
Trujillo, Ray (402)727-3292  
\$491,300.00

Fremont East Bypass  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,  
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Veverka, Frank (402)727-3292  
\$26,555,563.32

Waterloo Southeast  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Weander, Marty (402)595-2534  
\$20,452,885.99

60th St. Interchange on I-80  
ConPav  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Weander, Marty (402)595-2534  
\$628,598.22

Springfield North  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br, Elec  
Cedar Valley Corp. & Subsidiaries  
Wilson, Bill (402)595-2534  
\$10,491,763.71

West Dodge Rd. (WB)  
Expressway Br. 108th - 120th St.  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br,  
Spec, Elec, Sign  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534  
\$62,989,885.92

WB Bridges over 108th St., Omaha  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Elec, Sign  
Hawkins Construction Co.  
Zelensky, Rich (402)595-2534  
\$8,432,214.45

## District 3

US-30/23rd St., Columbus  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec, Sign  
M. E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.  
Anderson, David (402)564-5751  
\$1,563,013.98

33rd Ave., 24th - 27th St.,  
In Columbus  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec  
M. E. Collins Contracting Co., Inc.  
Anderson, David (402)564-5751  
\$843,569.09

Osmond East  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl  
Herbst Construction, Inc.  
Becker, Roger (402)254-6552  
\$2,062,925.73

Pierce Southeast  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Davis, Rob (402)370-3474  
\$2,275,252.29

Jct. N-32 @ Madison North  
Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Davis, Rob (402)370-3474  
\$4,303,856.85

Homer South  
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Graves Construction Co., Inc.  
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071  
\$550,079.23

Tekamah South  
Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071  
\$507,411.77

Newcastle Maintenance Facility  
Newcastle Maintenance Facility  
Radec Construction Co. Inc.  
Francis, Jeff (402)375-7071  
\$513,300.00

Royal - Plainview  
Specialty  
Ballou Construction Co., Inc.  
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474  
\$784,468.90

Pierce to US-81  
Specialty  
Monarch Oil, Inc.  
Lollman, Doug (402)370-3474  
\$212,195.25

Norfolk North  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Elec  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Schulz, Ron (402)370-3474  
\$8,592,417.11

Albion Northeast  
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Herbst Construction, Inc.  
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751  
\$1,562,233.05

Albion Equipment Storage Facility  
Albion Equipment Storage Facility  
J. H. Hespe Company, Inc.  
Trosper, Steven (402)564-5751  
\$286,643.00

Wynot Southeast  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl  
Elk Horn Construction Co.  
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552  
\$670,846.65

Fordyce West  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl  
Elk Horn Construction Co.  
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552  
\$382,725.92

Laurel North & East  
Bit  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552  
\$2,152,166.07

Carroll North & South  
Bit  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Wiebelhaus, Bob (402)254-6552  
\$1,429,240.49

## District 4

York North & South  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Elec  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Anderson, Tom (402)362-5934  
\$18,182,230.53

Gibbon Interchange  
Elec  
Ensley Electrical Services, Inc.  
Catlett, Terry (308)385-6265  
\$98,174.35

Elm Creek South  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434  
\$7,497,827.44

Kearney North  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl,  
Elec  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434  
\$5,884,195.46

Miller - Amherst  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434  
\$2,782,060.37

Miller to Custer Co. Line  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Farber, Tom (308)865-5434  
\$2,669,487.27

Merrick Co. Line West  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Elec  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6888  
\$5,123,897.10

Clarks South  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6888  
\$874,540.55

In Central City  
Bit  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6888  
\$657,893.68

Central City East  
Bit  
Dobson Bros. Construction Co.  
& Affiliates  
Gripenstroh, Scott (308)385-6888  
\$1,720,793.63

In East Osceola  
Br  
Wilke Contracting Corp.  
Grooms, Jerry (402)362-5934  
\$673,537.85

Deshler North  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996  
\$3,118,894.97

Roseland Southwest  
Gr, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.  
Kohmetscher, Lyle (402)462-1996  
\$940,685.87

In Genoa East & North  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Kwiatkowski, Rick (308)754-5411  
\$3,727,114.59

Superior Northeast  
Br  
L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.  
Meyer, Steve (402)462-1996  
\$331,513.68

Kearney Viaduct  
Br  
Wilke Contracting Corp.  
Nordhues, Bob (308)385-6265  
\$864,404.65

I-80 to US-30  
Specialty  
Monarch Oil, Inc.  
Nordhues, Bob (308)385-6265  
\$104,094.93

Hebron Vehicle Storage Addition  
Hebron Vehicle Storage Addition  
Caspers Construction Co.  
Sander, Gary (308)385-6265  
\$628,606.00

Ravenna Viaduct  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Br, Gdrl, Elec  
Christensen Bros., Inc.  
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6888  
\$4,212,903.12

Grand Island South  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed, Br,  
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6888  
\$9,800,324.79

In Grand Island & South  
Specialty  
Monarch Oil, Inc.  
Weber, Kirk (308)385-6888  
\$183,481.25

Greeley North & South  
Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Woodgate, Gerald (308)385-6888  
\$4,164,060.68

## District 5

Scottsbluff West  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Applegate, Joe (308)632-1429  
\$4,984,306.78

Lyman West & South  
Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Applegate, Joe (308)632-1429  
\$404,164.50

Beltline Hwy. South in Scottsbluff  
Gr, ConPav  
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries  
Applegate, Joe (308)632-1429  
\$172,059.33

Scottsbluff - Gering Bypass  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Seed,  
Gdrl, Fence, Elec, Sign  
Upper Plains Contracting, Inc.  
Applegate, Joe (308)632-1429  
\$8,398,848.08

Marsland South  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Perrett Construction, Ltd.  
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144  
\$4,448,654.86

Ellsworth North  
Gr, Culv, Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144  
\$3,393,653.37

Harrison Maintenance Facility  
Harrison Maintenance Facility  
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries  
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144  
\$445,000.00

Harrison Salt Storage Facility  
Harrison Salt Storage Facility  
Paul Reed Constr. & Supply, Inc.  
Carnahan, Brian (308)432-6144  
\$57,880.00

Angora South  
Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Frickey, Russ (308)262-1929  
\$1,886,608.10

Bayard East  
Gr, ConPav, Culv  
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries  
Hilderbrand, Sylvia L (308)262-1920  
\$394,926.67

Gering - Scottsbluff  
Specialty  
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries  
Hilderbrand, Sylvia L (308)262-1920  
\$423,224.86

Big Springs West  
ConPav, Br, Gdrl  
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries  
Johnson, James (308)262-1929  
\$2,181,336.39

Bridgeport South & West  
Bit  
Dustrol, Inc.  
Johnson, James (308)262-1929  
\$215,374.40

West Sidney Interchange  
Elec  
Watts Electric Company  
Johnson, James (308)262-1929  
\$104,149.60

Oshkosh Interchange  
Elec  
Watts Electric Company  
Johnson, James (308)262-1929  
\$95,442.90

N-71 East  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Gdrl, Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-1429  
\$3,306,776.73

Harrisburg Spur  
Culv, Seed, Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-1429  
\$585,809.44

US-26/N-71, Scottsbluff  
Elec  
Dominion Construction Co.  
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-1429  
\$101,218.50

Pine Bluffs, Bushnell & N-19 Bridges  
ConPav, Br, Gdrl  
Reiman Corp.  
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-1429  
\$1,128,837.65

Gering Maintenance Facility  
Maint. Facility  
Heggen Construction, Inc.  
Rhamy, Wayne (308)632-1429  
\$4,294,341.46

## District 6

Brady South  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Capital Contractors, Inc.  
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033  
\$9,965,526.75

North Jct. N-23/US-83 West  
Specialty  
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.  
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033  
\$84,395.00

Brady - Gothenburg  
Specialty  
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.  
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033  
\$178,274.20

North Platte Northwest  
Specialty  
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.  
Brinker, Gary (308)535-8033  
\$131,034.50

Mullen South  
Bit  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Leach, Roy (308)535-8033  
\$2,045,603.44

Maxwell - Gothenburg  
Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Morrell, Richard (308)535-8033  
\$5,002,118.46

Thedford North  
Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033  
\$2,114,816.46

Dickens East  
Gr, Culv, Bit  
Western Engineering Co., Inc.  
Sawyer, Harlan (308)535-8033  
\$4,333,835.25

Callaway - Oconto  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$3,072,385.62

Overton Link  
Gr, MSE Wall, Culv, Seed,  
Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$6,365,563.52

Prospect Rd., Lexington  
Elec  
Dominion Construction Co.  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$89,758.45



Arthur South  
Specialty  
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$292,410.40

Mullen North & South  
Specialty  
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$363,305.40

Stapleton Maintenance Facility  
Stapleton Maintenance Facility  
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$1,085,000.00

Dynamic Message Signs -  
Districts 4, 5 & 6  
Gdrl, Sign  
Watts Electric Company  
Thomsen, Toby (308)535-8033  
\$819,302.90

Eddyville East  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
White, Dennis (308)872-6735  
\$3,728,873.15

Oconto - Eddyville  
Specialty  
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.  
White, Dennis (308)872-6735  
\$154,208.00

Brewster West  
Specialty  
Sta-Bilt Construction Co.  
White, Dennis (308)872-6735  
\$94,366.80

## District 7

E. 7th St. East, McCook  
Gr, ConPav, Culv, Elec  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Collins, Duane (308)345-8490  
\$2,853,608.66

Cambridge - Holbrook  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Collins, Duane (308)345-8490  
\$5,195,002.27

Holbrook to N-46  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Doyle, Kelly (308)345-8490  
\$7,343,552.73

N-46 to Holdrege  
Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Doyle, Kelly (308)345-8490  
\$4,986,708.26

Alma - Republican City  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Br, Gdrl, Elec, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Kuhn, Kenton (308)995-5397  
\$8,976,048.42

In Holdrege  
Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Sell, Tim (308)995-5397  
\$774,288.77

Minden Northwest  
Culv  
Wilke Contracting Corp.  
Sell, Tim (308)995-5397  
\$47,866.13



Beaver City Southeast  
Gr, Br, Gdrl  
L. J. Webb Contractor, Inc.  
Volz, Jason (308)345-8490  
\$380,812.40

Curtis - Stockville  
Bit  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490  
\$1,453,876.36

Imperial Equipment Storage Bldg.  
Imperial Equipment Storage Bldg.  
BD Construction, Inc./Kearney  
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490  
\$211,890.00

Grant Maintenance Facility  
Grant Maintenance Facility  
Simon Contractors & Subsidiaries  
Ziebell, Roger (308)345-8490  
\$303,100.00



## District 8

Valentine Refuge Turtle Fence  
Fence  
American Fence Co.  
Gustafson, Jay (402)376-1352  
\$84,079.14

Sheridan/Cherry Co Line East  
Specialty  
Ballou Construction Co., Inc.  
Gustafson, Jay (402)376-1352  
\$309,328.70

Valentine East  
Specialty  
Ballou Construction Co., Inc.  
Gustafson, Jay (402)376-1352  
\$529,146.48

Newport - O'Neill  
Gr, Culv, Seed, Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Rau, Larry (402)387-2471  
\$10,490,764.49

Taylor Northwest  
Br  
A. M. Cohron & Son, Inc.  
Rudnick, Michael (402)387-2471  
\$329,186.50

Bassett East  
Bit  
Werner Construction, Inc.  
Rudnick, Michael (402)387-2471  
\$1,566,308.95

Taylor Maintenance Facility  
Taylor Maintenance Facility  
Paulsen, Inc.  
Rudnick, Michael (402)387-2471  
\$1,045,500.00

### Key:

Aggregate - Agg  
Bituminous - Bit  
Bridge - Br  
Building - Bldg  
Concrete Pavement - ConPav  
Culverts - Culv  
Electrical - Elec  
Grading - Gr  
Guardrail - Gdrl  
Mechanically Stabilized Earth - MSE  
Seeding - Seed







By Steve Duecker  
Highway Environmental Biologist



## "Squirt" Comes Home

Many of us can remember when America's space program was taking flight. As we watched the live broadcast on our black and white televisions we heard a new word: "telemetry." Telemetry, it turned out, was a transmitter that sent out radio signals to the ground station. The signal could carry information, or with the use of a special antenna on the receiver, it could be used to track the spacecraft in flight.

In the time that has passed, the size of telemetry transmitters has gone from small to tiny. Some now only weigh a few grams and have a range of 30 to 100 miles. This has allowed the attachment of transmitters to all types of wildlife, allowing biologists to study their movements through space and time. Many of these transmitters can now be tracked by satellite. Microchips used in the transmitters can relay information along with location. The signal can vary to record what the animal is doing. Several Internet websites allow anyone to see where the Sandhill Cranes are at any time. These websites, which offer tracking and other information, may be found by conducting a search at [www.Google.com](http://www.Google.com).

For the small group of us that fly falcons, telemetry has changed the impact of a lost bird. We can now track and recover them. Earlier this summer I was flying a young bird named "Squirt," and she went on leave. Since she had on a transmitter I tracked her north

about twenty miles, where she settled in a roadless area (of course).

Tracking and recovering a falcon on foot is just about impossible. They move before you can get to them. Over the next few days we played "cat and mouse" as we waited to get her in a position to catch up to her.

On Saturday, a week after she was lost, I went up very early to locate her and could get no signal. I dejectedly headed home preparing to call all the falconers to the north to keep an eye out for her. I left the receiver on just in case, and as I topped the last hill for home the "beeping" signal from the receiver almost knocked my headphones off. "Squirt" had come back to within half a mile of home, and I was able to call her in and pick her up. I guess she decided the food was better at home. I may have never known that she was there without telemetry.

There is an old rock song about "too much technology"; when I see someone driving erratically while talking on their cell phone it seems this might be true. Actually, who is using the technology and how they are using it are what make the difference. As telemetry, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and all those other acronyms get more sophisticated, it is up to people to use it for the benefit of our natural resources.

## Low Walls Call for Keeping a Low Profile

You might have dreams of a corner office, but chances are your first professional workspace will be something far less lofty: the "cubicle." Cubicles have advantages for your employer: They are less expensive, allowing all sorts of configurations in an open floor plan.

Cubes can also be good for workers when they are part of a general office culture of accessibility. However, good etiquette is needed to ensure all that easy interaction is productive, not painful.

Here are some tips to help recent grads ease the transition from classroom to cubicle:

- ✓ **Keep your voice down.** There is zero soundproofing in a cubicle. Take no comfort in those paper-thin walls, even if they go to the ceiling. Assume that everyone around you will hear everything you say. Keep your voice as quiet as is reasonable for work-related conversations. And if the conversation is not work-related, take it outside.
- ✓ **Control the cell phone.** Cell phone ring tones are distracting, especially snippets or goofy songs. When you're in the office, turn it off or set the ringer to "vibrate" or "visual only" mode. When you leave your cube, always take your phone with

you. Otherwise, you risk having a co-worker toss it out the window to stop the incessant ringing.

- ✓ **Ask before entering.** Knock gently to announce your presence, and wait for the person to make eye contact before stepping inside his or her cubicle. If the person is on the phone or looks otherwise occupied, leave a note and come back later.
- ✓ **Avoid sneak attacks.** The configurations of many desks and the "doors" of cubicles leave many people with their backs to the "hall." Let people know you are walking up behind them. If you would prefer

See **Low Profile** on page 14



# Some Timely Reminders Regarding Good Health



By Jane Brommer, RN

With the current scare regarding a potential pandemic of avian influenza (bird flu), the importance of vaccination is on the forefront of many people's minds these days. Vaccines are one of public health's greatest triumphs. With the exception of safe water, no other health discovery, not even antibiotics, has had such a tremendous effect on reducing disease and improving health. However, vaccine-preventable diseases and deaths still occur in the U.S., affecting all age groups.

As adults, we think mainly of vaccines like the annual flu vaccine and the pneumonia vaccine. There has been an ample supply of flu vaccine for the 2005-2006 flu season, unlike last winter. Adults are also urged to receive the pneumonia vaccine. It consists of one injection followed by a booster in five years. Pneumonia causes up to 40,000 deaths and 175,000 hospitalizations each year. Together, pneumonia and influenza are the seventh-leading cause of death in the U.S., and the sixth-leading cause of death among people 65 years of age and older.

## Immunizations

Disease outbreaks occur when immunization rates decline. Immunization is a lifelong, life-protecting community effort. The viruses and bacteria that cause vaccine-preventable diseases and death still exist and can infect people who are not protected by vaccines. Be sure your immunizations and those of your family are up to date. Your physician can advise you which ones you and

your family need in order to remain protected. Keep up with news regarding the bird flu, and in the meantime, keep up the good hand washing as it is still the *best* way to protect yourself.

With the holidays now behind us and many of us carrying around those "average 7 to 10 pounds" of weight gain that Americans put on between Thanksgiving and Christmas, it is a good time to review some basics of cholesterol control. When your body has too much cholesterol, it builds up on the walls of your arteries. Over time, this build-up will cause "hardening of the arteries." This hardening means that your arteries become narrowed and blood flow to the heart becomes impaired.

## Cholesterol

The higher your cholesterol level, the higher your chances of getting heart disease or having a stroke. High cholesterol levels by themselves have no symptoms. This is why so many people are unaware that their levels are too high. Total cholesterol should be below 200mg/dcl. Borderline risk appears between the levels of 200-239 and any level above 240 mg/dcl indicates a high risk. Your HDL (good cholesterol) should be above 35, preferably in the 45-54 range.

Your LDL (bad cholesterol) should be below 130 and if you have *any* risk factors, such as diabetes, high blood pressure or family history of heart disease, it should be 100 or below. Diet modifications or the addition of a statin drug is usually successful in bringing down high levels into a normal range. Regular physical exercise 30 to 45 minutes on most days of the week is very successful in both lowering the LDL and raising the HDL levels. ♦

## Low Profile *(continued from page 13)*

co-workers not to sneak up on you, invest in a cheap mirror that attaches to your computer monitor so you can see who is coming.

✓ **Don't pile up.** Cubicles are not good places to hold meetings. For anything other than a quick chat between two people, find a more appropriate space, such as a conference room. Letting the crowd spill out into the walkway is not an alternative. It's distracting to everyone else around you.

✓ **Keep your germs at home.** Lots of macho people are out there who "just can't be sick," but this is a mindset we need to break. People who are separated from co-workers'

sneezes by walls that aren't that much thicker than Kleenex to begin with are especially vulnerable to contagious illness.

✓ **Choose your décor carefully.** The lack of privacy in a cubicle means everyone will be privy to your choices in wall art. A few family photos are fine, but leave the drunken party pics of you and your 11 best college friends at home. Be judicious about choosing foliage as well. Plants are not likely to damage your fledgling professional image, but they can irritate some people's allergies.

✓ **Choose food carefully.** You might think your husband's chicken curry is the yummiest, but your office neighbors could disagree. Anything

that has a strong smell should probably be heated up and consumed outside of your cube. Even if everyone agrees it smells utterly delicious, the appetizing aroma could be distracting to a hungry co-worker who is just trying to make it through to his or her own late lunch time.

✓ **Speak up.** When a neighbor is doing something that interferes with your ability to get work done, say something. Don't let it fester. A polite and direct comment immediately about the offending behavior is infinitely more effective than griping to everyone else in the office. ♦

*This article was reprinted with permission of the Lincoln Journal Star.*

# NDOR Events Calendar

## — February —

- 2 Letting**  
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 8 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 12-18 National Child Passenger Safety Week**
- 14 New Employee Orientation Program**  
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")  
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870
- 15 RoadToasters**  
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 17 Hwy. Commission Meeting**  
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 17 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**  
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 19-25 National Engineers Week**
- 20 State Holiday – Presidents' Day**
- 22 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 24 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**  
10:00 a.m., NDOR Materials & Research Conference Rm.  
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436

## — March —

- 2 Project Scheduling Meeting**  
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 7 New Employee Orientation Program**  
NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870
- 8 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 9 Letting**  
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 14-16 Project Managers' Conference**  
Ramada Inn, Kearney
- 15 RoadToasters**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735

- 17 Hwy. Commission Meeting**  
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 17 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**  
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 22 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735

## — April —

- 3-9 National Work Zone Awareness Week**
- 6 Project Scheduling Meeting**  
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 7 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**  
Meeting 8:45 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Examination 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. NDOR Auditorium  
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 11 New Employee Orientation Program**  
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")  
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870
- 12 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 13 Letting**  
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 19 RoadToasters**  
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 21 Hwy. Commission Meeting**  
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 21 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**  
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 22-29 Great Nebraska Trash-Off**
- 22 Earth Day**
- 26 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 28 State Holiday – Arbor Day**

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail [lwilson@dor.state.ne.us](mailto:lwilson@dor.state.ne.us). Information for the April/May Roadrunner should be received by March 15.



# NDOR Events Calendar

## — February —

- 2 Letting**  
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 8 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 12-18 National Child Passenger Safety Week**
- 14 New Employee Orientation Program**  
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")  
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870
- 15 RoadToasters**  
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 17 Hwy. Commission Meeting**  
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 17 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**  
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 19-25 National Engineers Week**
- 21 State Holiday – Presidents' Day**
- 22 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 24 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**  
10:00 a.m., NDOR Materials & Research Conference Rm.  
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436

## — March —

- 2 Project Scheduling Meeting**  
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 7 New Employee Orientation Program**  
NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870
- 8 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 9 Letting**  
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 14-16 Project Managers' Conference**  
Ramada Inn, Kearney
- 15 RoadToasters**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735

- 17 Hwy. Commission Meeting**  
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 17 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**  
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 22 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735

## — April —

- 3-9 National Work Zone Awareness Week**
- 6 Project Scheduling Meeting**  
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Craig Anderson @ 479-4666
- 7 Bd. Examiners for Co. Hwy. & City Street Supts.**  
Meeting 8:45 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Examination 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. NDOR Auditorium  
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 11 New Employee Orientation Program**  
Rm. 152, 5001 S. 14th (the "Hill")  
Contact Carrie Williams @ 479-4870
- 12 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 13 Letting**  
1:30 p.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact Liz Wunderlich @ 479-4528
- 19 RoadToasters**  
11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 21 Hwy. Commission Meeting**  
10:00 a.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Shirley Schafer @ 479-4530
- 21 Bd. Public Roads Class & Stds.**  
9:00 a.m., NDOR Auditorium  
Contact LeMoyne Schulz @ 479-4436
- 22-29 Great Nebraska Trash-Off**
- 22 Earth Day**
- 26 RoadToasters Speechcrafters Course**  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Hwy. Commission Meeting Rm.  
Contact Mike Owen @ 479-4735
- 28 State Holiday – Arbor Day**

If you would like a key event included on upcoming calendars, call the Communication Office 479-4512 or e-mail [lwilson@dor.state.ne.us](mailto:lwilson@dor.state.ne.us). Information for the April/May Roadrunner should be received by March 15.